



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS SUMMARY: Robert Hawpetoss Sentenced to Life In Prison Plus Twenty Years**

On October 21, 2005, Robert Michael Hawpetoss, DOB:(04/04/40) was sentenced by the Honorable William C. Griesebach, federal district court judge, Green Bay Division. Hawpetoss was sentenced to five life terms and two twenty year terms of imprisonment following his multiple convictions for sexual abuse.

During a four day jury trial, five victims ranging in age from 14 years to 41 years, testified about the sexual abuse they suffered at the hands of Hawpetoss.

Hawpetoss was convicted of attempting to sexually assault a minor under the age of 12 years. This charge stemmed from an attempt by Hawpetoss to pull an eight year old girl into the woods off Max Martin road on the Menominee Indian Reservation in September of 1999 in an attempt to sexually assault her. The young girl was able to break free from Hawpetoss' grasp and she ran almost two miles to a highway where two cars stopped to help her. A search was conducted in the area of Max Martin road in an attempt to locate Hawpetoss. A canine was used in the search but lost the scent in the marsh. It took more than five years to locate and arrest Hawpetoss. He was apprehended by the Oneida Tribal police on December 5, 2004 after an individual contacted the police to let them know that Hawpetoss was wanted on a federal warrant.

Hawpetoss was also convicted for the sexual abuse of two children. These incidents of assault took place from 1985 through 1993. The victims, now adults, testified to the ongoing sexual abuse by Hawpetoss over many years. They also testified about the direct threats from Hawpetoss that he would kill them if they ever told anyone of the sexual abuse.

In addition the testimony of the these victims, the jury heard from two additional victims Hawpetoss had assault in the mid-seventies. One testified that in approximately 1973, Hawpetoss sexually assault him on two occasions while Hawpetoss was living with the boy's mother. Another testified that in approximately 1975, Hawpetoss sexually assault him on two occasions. These incidents were beyond the statute of limitations but they were allowed to testify to show Hawpetoss' propensity to commit sexual acts against young children. One boy had been threatened with a knife by Hawpetoss to remain silent.

When Judge Griesebach sentenced Hawpetoss to life in prison the Judge stated that the sadistic and cruel behavior exhibited by Hawpetoss was something that he had not seen before. The Judge further said this was the most horrible case that he has seen with the number of victims and the degree and frequency of the sexual assaults. The Judge said that the “darkness and evil on the part of the defendant has left lifetime scars on the victims.” Judge Griesebach concluded Hawpetoss was beyond any hope of treatment and felt the only way to protect society from this defendant was to make certain he spent the rest of his life in prison.

This case was investigated by the FBI in Green Bay, Wisconsin with the assistance of the Menominee Tribal Police Department and the Menominee County Sheriff’s Department. This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin by Assistant United States Attorneys Penny Coblentz and Carol L. Kraft.

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